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ABSTRACT

A method for link-level flow control includes establishing a plurality of logical links over a physical link between a transmitting entity and a receiving entity in a network. Respective maximum limits of transmission credits are assigned to the logical links, the credits corresponding to space available to the links in a dynamically allocable portion of a receive buffer at the receiving entity, such that a sum of the maximum limits for all of the logical links corresponds to an amount of space substantially larger than a total volume of the space in the dynamically allocable portion of the receive buffer. Responsive to traffic from the transmitting entity to the receiving entity on a given one of the logical links, one or more of the credits are allocated to the given logical link when it is determined that a total of the credits allocated to the given logical link is no greater than the respective maximum limit, and that a total of the credits allocated to all of the logical links together corresponds to an allocated volume that is no greater than the total volume of the space in the dynamically allocable portion of the receive buffer. Transmission of data over the given logical link is controlled responsive to the allocated credits.

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